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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND AVON GROVE LIBRARY ANNOUNCE SUMMER ESSAY CONTEST**

**Fifth and Sixth Graders Asked to Write About “A Book That Shaped Me”**

WEST GROVE, Pa. – June 1, 2016 – The Library of Congress is sponsoring a summer essay contest in conjunction with public libraries in the Mid-Atlantic region, encouraging rising fifth- and sixth-grade students to reflect on a book that has made a personal impact on their lives. Avon Grove Library in West Grove, Pa. is a participating library.

The “A Book That Shaped Me” Summer Writing Contest is administered as part of summer reading programs at participating public libraries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Prizes will be awarded and top winners will be invited to present their essays during a special ceremony at the Library of Congress National Book Festival, taking place September 24 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

Students entering fifth and sixth grades in the fall of 2016 are eligible. Essays should be one page in length and must be submitted with an entry form in person at participating public library locations. The deadline for entries is Monday, July 18, 2016. “A Book That Shaped Me” will award prizes to five finalists and one winner per state, and to three overall grand prize winners. The three grand prize winners will be selected by a panel of judges assembled by the Library of Congress, including educators, children’s authors, and Library of Congress staff.

Submission forms are available at Avon Grove Library. More information and program updates will be available at [www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/](http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/kids-teachers/booksthatshape/).

Launched in 2012 with the District of Columbia Public Library, “A Book That Shaped Me” has since expanded throughout the mid-Atlantic region with the help of public libraries in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. More than 350 public libraries are registered to participate in this, the fourth program year.

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Avon Grove Library is a vital educational institution, providing equal opportunity for self-directed learning, research assistance and instruction, and enriching experiences for over 30,000 residents of all ages in southern Chester County. The library is a member of the Chester County Library System.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs and exhibitions. Many of the Library’s rich resources can be accessed through its website at [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

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